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CHINESE COASTAL AREAS REPORT
GOOD SPRING CATCH OF FISH

Jen-min Jih-pao
Peiping, 14 Aug 1953

[Summary: Along the coasts of Shantung and Chekiang provinces there was a good catch of fish in the spring of 1953. Preparations for fishing were made in advance.

Although the price of fish was stable, averaging over 1,000 yuan per catty, there was a great difference between wholesale and retail prices: large herring were sold for 2,200 yuan in Chou-shan, 3,400 yuan in Yin-hsien, and 4,300 yuan in Shanghai.

In May, there were 700 sailing boats and 60 motor launches engaged in fishing near Chefoo.

GOOD CATCH ALONG SHANTUNG AND CHEKIANG COASTS -- Peiping, Jen-min Jih-pao, 14 Aug 53

This year along the coasts of Shantung and Chekiang there has been a good catch of fish and an increase in production. Liaotung, Kiangsu, Fukien, and Hopeh provinces will fill their quotas. Only in Liaosi and Kwangtung provinces did unfavorable weather diminish the amount of fish caught.

Three million catties of cod were caught at Chefoo, this being 34 percent more than the total obtained there during the 3 years since liberation. In P'ing-t'an Hsien in Fukien Province, at one flood tide, 14,000 piculs of fish were caught, breaking the record of several decades. This year the fishermen were enthusiastic about catching sharks, ten or more being caught, each weighing above 1,000 catties. The supply of fish-liver oil has thereby been increased appreciably.

Especially in Shantung and Chekiang provinces preparations for spring fishing were completed in advance. Money was loaned to build and repair boats and to prepare the fishing equipment. In Shantung Province several new fishing craft were added, while in Chekiang Province 7 percent more boats than last year took part in herring fishing.

In Fukien Province 21 hsien formed worker groups to control bandit activity and fishing area arrangements.

In Shantung Province the fishermen combined forces to promote the sale of fish in rural villages.

The price of fish was comparatively stable all over the nation; averaging over 1,000 yuan per catty. In the Chou-shan Islands in Chekiang Province, where the price of fish most easily fluctuates, an early investigation was made to guarantee the fishermen's cost of production, taking into account wages and capital involved. It was decided that the price of fish would be lowest only at the height of the spring fishing. Actually, on Chou-shan in March and April at the busiest time of the herring season, the price of fish was twice the lowest price they had estimated beforehand. The fishermen were very happy.

Some problems still remain. In Chekiang Province this year, though the price at the production point was very good, there was considerable difference between the prices at production point and in the city markets. For example, at the Chou-shan fishing grounds during March, small herring brought 1,200 yuan per catty while the price at Yin-hsien, Ningpo, was 2,200 yuan and at Shanghai 2,500 yuan. In April, the big herring brought 2,200 yuan in Chou-shan, 3,400 yuan in Yin-hsien

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and 4,300 yuan in Shanghai. For this reason the fishermen decided to sell the fish as well as catch them, thus to a marked degree delaying production at this important season of the year.

Another problem was that of loans to fishermen. There was some improvement in this matter, but difficulties remain. For example, in one locality in Shantung Province, the bank which had loaned money claimed it had not been used properly for improved fishing equipment and in the case of 50 families demanded its return. In Wu-sung, in the Shanghai Municipality, money was loaned by the cooperatives with mistake being made of equal distribution of funds irrespective of needs for production. The result was that some fishermen used the loans for other purposes.

CHEFOO HAS BUSY FISHING SEASON -- Peiping, Jen-min Jih-pao, 14 Aug 53

The beginning of summer, when schools of mackerel swarm the ocean, is the busy fishing season at Chefoo in Shantung Province. In early May there were 700 sailing boats and about 60 motor launches engaged in fishing near that port. In addition to the modern motor fishing boats of the Chefoo P'o-hai Marine Products Company, the Shantung Provincial Marine Products Transportation and Selling Company, and the Shantung Marine Products Company, powered fishing boats also came from Shanghai, Liaotung, and the Dairen-Port Arthur areas.

From 1 to 22 May, 6 million catties of the fish were on the market. Two motor vessels from Dairen-Port Arthur, No 6 and No 7, between 15 and 31 May went to sea eight times and exceeded their quota for May by 193 percent. On 29 May, many fishing launches in a single operation caught 50,000-60,000 fish each, filling the hatches and piling them on the decks. One boat of the Shantung Marine Products Company caught 140,000 catties of fish in a single day.

In many respects, this year was different from other years. In the area about Chefoo not only were there more fishing boats and more fish caught; there were also more people to learn and to investigate fishing activities. Many technicians, teachers, and students came from the Northeast Marine Products Experiment Station, the Shanghai Marine Products College, the Hopeh Provincial Marine Products Technical School, and the Chefoo Shantung Provincial Marine Products School. They came to observe, to investigate, and also to follow the workmen at their tasks, laboring with them. This is a great aid to improvement in fishing techniques.

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